1:Dobrizhoffer M-5 (ca. 1760) 1822
514 Abipon 514

with the same, to keep off the attacks of serpents. For it appears, both from the authority of physicians and from experience, that not only the juice but the very smell of a radish is of use against serpents. Some bind a live hen, or pigeon, cut open, to the wound, thinking that the poison is absorbed by them. In place of a hen some substitute a kid, or the belly of a goat newly slain. Some wash the wounded part with goat's milk, and they say that a countryman cured a serpent wound in the foot by dipping it often into goat's milk. They also say that cheese made of this milk, when applied to the wound, will have the same effect. To these old remedies America adds new ones, a few of which I will mention. They apply the unripe fruit of the anana, when bruised, to poisoned wounds by way of a cataplasm. The Indian physicians give the herb *taropè*, (which the Spaniards call *contra yerba*, or *higuerilla*, the little fig, because its roots have both the odour and the milk of the fig,) to their patient to eat or drink, to counteract the effects of poisons. The leaves of the herb *mboỹ-cadi* are chewed, and the juice swallowed, whilst part of the chewed leaves are placed on the wound. The *macdngua cadi* is celebrated for possessing a virtue of the same kind. This herb is named from the duck *macdngua*, which, using its wings

1:Dobrizhoffer M-5 (ca. 1760) 1822
514 Abipon 514

as a shield, pursues and kills serpents, but if it be wounded in the contest eats this herb as a medicine. The *yçipo moroti*, and *bejuco de Guayaquil*, have the same property. The roots of the *urucuÿ*, *jurepeba*, *jaborandi*, &c. are highly conducive to excite perspiration, by which the poison is expelled. I do not deny the validity of these remedies, but, with the leave of physicians, ancient as well as modern, I still think nard root preferable to them all, for it has been the salvation of numbers, not only of men, but of beasts. As the cattle feed in the open air, day and night, every part of the year, they are not unfrequently bitten by serpents, scolopendras, and spiders. Blood dropping from the nostrils is the sign of a poisonous wound. Brandy mixed with nard root poured in time down their throats was of great use, but after the poison had diffused itself over all the members of animals we generally found medicine unavailing.